

Bremo
Fluvanna County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-302

HABS
VA
33 FORK U.V.
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey
Eugene Bradbury, Architect in Charge
Grace Securities Building, Richmond, Virginia

BREMO (Residence)
Fluvanna County, Virginia

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VA

33-FORRUM

Owner: Mrs. Forney Johnston

Date of Erection: c.1819

Architect: Thomas Jefferson

Builder: General John Hartwell Cocke (owner)

Present Condition: Excellent

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Brick

Other Existing Records: None known

Additional Data: Near each other in Fluvanna County are the three homesteads and estates known as BreMO, Lower BreMO, and BreMO Recess.

General John Hartwell Cocke (1780-1866), of Surry County, a gentleman of prominence and fortune, removed, about 1803, to Fluvanna County, where he owned large tracts of land. He built BreMO Recess, and lived in it while he was erecting the handsome mansion which he named BreMO, in honor of BreMO in Henrico County, which was the home of the Cocke family at a very early date. BreMO House, with its great stone barns and other outbuildings, is one of the notable places on the James River.

General Cocke was devoted to the cause of temperance, and as a temperance memorial he had placed on the bank of the James River and Kanawha Canal, at BreMO, a huge iron vase, pitcher-shaped, which was constantly filled to overflowing with water introduced by pipes from a spring. This unique fountain was long a famous sight to travelers up and down the canal.

After the death of General John H. Cooke the property was inherited by his son, Dr. Cary C. Cocke, and at his death it passed to his two daughters, Misses Mary and Lelia, who are the present owners.

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Lower Bremo was built in 1843 and belonged to Dr. Cary C. Cocke until 1855, when he and his father, General Cocke, exchanged homes. It is now the property of Mrs. W. R. C. Cocke. (Historic Virginia Homes and Churches).

THW 12/27/20